ASPULL, WIGAN,

January 29th, 1896.

To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 1895, also the various lists required by the Local Government Board and County Council.

During the year 141 deaths were registered—males 70, females 71; an increase of three over the preceding year of 1894; the annual death rate of 15·7 may, however, be considered as very satisfactory.

The births numbered 298—boys 149, girls 149, giving an annual birth rate of 33·2 per 1000.

The infantile death rate of children under one year continues to improve, for whereas in 1894 it was 146·9 for every 1,000 births, and which was an improvement as compared with some years preceding, for the past year it has been reduced to 140·9.

The following table will show the ages at which all deaths were registered:—

Under 1 year	42
Between 1 and 5 years	25
„ 5 „ 15 „	6
„ 15 „ 25 „	3
„ 25 „ 65 „	47
Over 65 „	18
Total	141

Those due to the principal diseases were Scarlet Fever 1, Croup 2, Influenza 1, Typhoid Fever 6, Whooping Cough 4, Bronchitis and Pneumonia 37, Diarrhœa 3, Phthisis 3, Heart Disease 6, other diseases 78.

It will be noted that sixteen deaths were due to six principal Zymotic diseases, and would give a rate of 1·7 per 1000, which is the lowest Zymotic rate since 1883; but to this number must be added one of the five cases of Scarlet Fever sent to the Sanatorium which died in that Institution, and would raise the rate to 1·8.

One hundred and fifty-one cases were reported under the Notification Act:—Membranous Croup 9, Erysipelas 17, Scarlet Fever 82, Continued Fever 9, Typhoid 14, Diphtheria 4, Small Pox 16. They were scattered over the entire district—Lower Gullet, New Springs, and Top Lock suffering most. All the Small Pox cases were in New Springs and Top Lock.

In March, four cases of Diphtheria were reported—two in one house at Dicconson Mill, in front of which was a sewer untrapped; one at Heyes' square, and one at Marsh House fold. These two latter could also be traced to bad sanitation.

In November, a fatal case of Typhoid occurred at Marsh House fold. The sanitary condition of this property has been for a long time bad; the present owner, however, since my report to you at the end of November has put the premises in a good temporary condition pending the completion of the new sewage scheme, when I have every reason to believe the property will be thoroughly overhauled. I should like to take this opportunity of pointing out the fact that many houses in various parts of the district are without slopstones or any means of conveying the slop water to its proper destination, the consequence is that the water is thrown out carelessly into the back yards, many of which remain unpaved, and there mixing with the ashes and refuse generally, gives rise to a condition anything but salutary to health; and also the pantries or sculleries in which the water supply may be placed are always damp and unhealthy. Your Council may with safety make it a rule that wherever water is supplied to a dwelling there ought to be a proper means for its exit.

The defective sewer, before mentioned, at Dicconson Mill, has now been remedied.

Aspall

In May, I had to draw your attention to the want of pressure in the water mains, consequently, the higher parts of the district—Scot lane and Ratcliffe road—had only an intermittent supply; since that time it has been better and more constant, but scarcely so good as could be wished for. I have not had any complaints as to the quality of the water, but I believe it to be good.

The most exciting event of the year was the appearance of Small Pox, on which I made you a special report as to its probable source with lists of the affected persons, etc., etc. The disease was most likely brought from Wigan, and first showed itself in Wigan road, New Springs, on September 25th. Between this date and October 5th, 14 cases occurred in Wigan road, Chapel street, Leeds street, and Withington lane, and infecting 10 houses. After October 5th, came an interval of three weeks; then, on the 28th, a case occurred in Wigan road—this was difficult to account for; and on November 8th another in the same locality. Since this last case no others have been reported. On the first appearance of the disease, I requested you to allow me one of your employees to devote all his time to the Small Pox cases, and there can be no doubt that your decision to comply with my request was most judicious. Every suspicious case was carefully isolated, and on the earliest development of the disease sent to the Sanatorium. Many cases that did not turn out in the end to be this disease, but exhibiting some of the early symptons, were isoloted and carefully watched. I can speak in the highest terms of the inhabitants of the districts affected in submitting themselves to this rigorous proceeding, and assisting to the best of their ability in stamping out the disease.

Re-vaccination was freely resorted to—a large number submitting to the operation with, I am strongly convinced, most favourable results; and none of those re-vaccinated contracted the disease. The usual proceedings of fumigation, lime-washing, and removal of bedding for disinfection were carried out. All the houses infected have since been limewashed and re-decorated.

The closing of the Schools in the district at the first outbreak probably had a good effect in limiting the disease.

Early in the year, a case of exposing unsound meat was brought under your notice, which resulted in a prosecution and conviction of the offender.

No offensive trades have been carried on in the district.

Three case of overcrowding have been dealt with; and 93 notifications for the abatement of nuisances have been issued by the Inspector; it has not been necessary to take any legal measures for their enforcement.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours yours,

L. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

ASPULL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Year ending December 31st, 1895.

PLATT, PRINTER, WIGAN.